

# Candidate Questionnaire Local Candidates Committee NYS Elections 2018

Citizens Union appreciates your response to the following questionnaire related to policy issues facing New York State, and our interest in reforming state government. Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as possible, and no later than July 13th. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for Attorney General of New York State, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election. Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.

If you seek our support, we will also need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. Please contact us if you wish to be interviewed.

We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.

We thank you very much for your response.

## **Biographical Information**

Candidate Name: Sean Patrick Maloney

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat

Age: 51

Education: University of Virginia School of Law

Office Sought/District: New York Attorney General

Occupation/Employer: Member of Congress

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

*(Please feel free to affix any additional information such as a résumé, campaign brochure, or issue statements.)*

## **Campaign Contact Information**

Campaign Manager Name: Caitlin Girouard

Additional Staff Contact: Mecole Hayes

Address: 289 North Plank Road, Suite 3

Telephone: N/A

Fax: N/A

Website: Maloneyfornewyork.com

Email: Mecole@maloneyfornewyork.com

Twitter: MaloneyforNY

Facebook: MaloneyforNY

## **I. AFFIRMATIONS**

Have you completed required campaign finance filings? YES

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES

*(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union endorsements.)*

Signature of Candidate:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the top.

Date: 07/30/2018

## II. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

### **1. What will be your top priorities if elected Attorney General?**

As Attorney General, one of my top priorities would be to hold the powerful accountable - from Albany to Wall Street to the White House - we have to crack down on corruption and fraud throughout New York. I will act as the last line of defense against the Trump Administration's attacks on healthcare, the environment, women's rights, and minority and immigrant populations.

### **2. How would you address fraud and public misconduct of elected officials? Do you believe that greater responsibility should be given to the office to investigate corruption and how would you achieve that?**

Fraud, misconduct, and corruption are all too common in Albany, New York City and Washington, D.C., and it's the job of the Attorney General to enforce the laws of the land and uphold the integrity of the constitution. New Yorkers need an AG who will protect and prioritize their interests and that's exactly what I plan to do. I would empower the attorneys of the Public Integrity Bureau within the Attorney General's office to aggressively pursue corruption in Albany and throughout the state. I also believe it is important to continue to build on the partnership between the Attorney General's office and the state Comptroller to root out corruption by our elected officials at every level of government.

### **3. What do you think the role of Attorney General should be in enforcing election and campaign finance laws? Would you publicly ask the governor to empower you with greater authority to oversee public corruption and enforce related laws, particularly in those areas?**

Our democracy only works when rank and file politicians understand that they are not above the law. It's time to fight back against individuals who break the law by abusing campaign finance regulations and hold them accountable for their actions. That's why I believe New York's next AG should work with the Governor to enforce campaign finance laws and close loopholes that allow politicians to violate campaign finance laws. But the people of New York also deserve an Attorney General who is not beholden to the Governor politically. I believe one of my greatest strengths is my ability to be an independent voice on behalf New Yorkers and not a candidacy born out of some backroom Albany deal. I would hope that the Governor would partner with the Attorney General to restore the public trust in our elected officials but I believe I could use the existing authority of the office to enforce election and campaign finance laws

### **4. Do you support measures to limit the role of money in elections and politics, such as substantially reducing contribution limits and/or instituting a matching public campaign financing system at the state level? If elected, would you set an example on campaign finance reform by voluntarily limiting the size of campaign contributions you receive by an amount significantly less than the current limit, should reforms not be enacted?**

I support limiting the role of money in elections by both reducing contribution limits and supporting public financing. We need to increase transparency in campaign finance by bringing our electronic reporting system into the 21st century, allowing the public and the press immediate access to the information. New Yorkers need to know who elected officials are accepting donations from.

**5. Do you believe there is a conflict of interest in raising funds from companies you may regulate and have to take action against? Are there parameters you set or you believe should be established in statute to limit potential conflicts of interest?**

If any candidate for this office believes in doing what's best for them as opposed to what's best for New Yorkers- they aren't fit for the job - it's as simple as that. It'll be in the best interest of our electorate to establish and enforce statutes that limit potential conflicts of interests and one's ability to carry out the duties required in their official capacity.

**6. What do you believe is the proper role of the Office of Attorney General in monitoring the financial industries and ensuring Wall Street's compliance with finance regulations, as well as any related criminal laws? If elected, would you push to reform legislation regarding oversight of financial industries?**

For too long elected leaders made it their job to bail out the guys on Wall Street who evade regulations and participate in illegal behavior. The Attorney General must be prepared to aggressively investigate and monitor the activities of the financial markets on Wall Street by utilizing tools like the Martin Act and the Donnelly Act as well as other laws on the books and reforming the laws that have proven to be ineffective.

**7. The previous and current Attorneys General have given priority to litigating against federal action that they deemed harmful to the state. What would be your approach to addressing such federal policies?**

Our rights are under attack by the Trump administration. New York's next Attorney General should lead the way in litigation when the Administration refuses to enforce federal law and implements offensive, archaic policies that hurt families in New York. Whether that means defending New Yorkers against the terrible tax plan, protecting our environment, standing up for immigrant families, or working to ensure we don't let the President and Republicans in Congress dismantle our healthcare system, New York's next Attorney General must continue to play offense in the fight to protect the rights of our citizens.

**8. If elected Attorney General, what organizational changes would you make to the Department of Law, if any?**

First and foremost, we should create a separate bureau to address issues of sexual harassment and abuse. The #MeToo movement highlighted a long-existing, pervasive cultural that harmed and diminished women everywhere from their places of work to their places of worship. As a society, we are not doing enough to ensure equality and justice for women.

**9. What are your thoughts on striking the appropriate balance between the Attorney General's role as the lawyer representing the state's officials, and as an independently elected government official?**

While the Attorney General must work with state officials -- and in plenty of cases can leverage the information and resources of other offices for the public interest -- the New York Attorney General must maintain independence from the powerful in Albany, Wall Street and throughout the State. The Attorney General is the People's Lawyer above all.

**10. What, if any, are the key social issues of the state that you would address should you be elected Attorney General? How would you address them?**

It's no secret that there are a lot of problems with our criminal justice system and we need to do more to ensure that we do right by everyone in America, regardless of their background. Racial bias, mandatory minimum sentences, and increasing prison populations are perpetuating social inequities across the U.S. I want to do more to curb recidivism and end the school-to-prison pipeline. Similarly, the New York Attorney General's office must bring more resources to bear on the state's worsening opioid epidemic. That doesn't simply mean going after the trafficking of illegal opioids but also holding opioid distributors and manufacturers accountable.

**11. What, if any, would be your top legislative priorities to pursue should you be elected Attorney General? What specific solutions would you put forward?**

The New York Attorney General is one of world's most important policeman for fraud, antitrust violations and other illegal behavior in financial markets. The AG must be prepared to creatively utilize New York's far-reaching anti-fraud and antitrust laws.

Moreover, in these unusual and threatening times the AG must be prepared to pick up the banner of justice where the federal government is failing. This means standing up for consumers, ensuring access to affordable healthcare that includes mental health parity, halting the rollback of environmental protections, protecting New Yorkers from Republican tax scam targeting, and utilizing New York's robust civil rights statutes to ensure all individuals and families get a fair shake.

### **III. CAMPAIGN PROMISES MADE TO VOTERS (PAST AND CURRENT)**

In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess candidates on the commitments they are making to voters during the campaign. For candidates who have held elected office before, we will also evaluate them on how well they kept the promises they made to voters in the past.

As a candidate who has held an elected office other than the one for which you are running,

a. what are the top five promises or goals you are making to the voters during this campaign, and, b. since 2014, what have been your top five campaign promises or goals and what progress has been made in keeping those promises?

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided

is not sufficient.

### **TOP FIVE 2018 CAMPAIGN PROMISES OR GOALS**

1. Fight back against the Trump Administration
2. Crack down on corruption throughout New York State
3. Address the systemic inequalities that have forced women and other minority populations to endure harassment and abuse in every facet of their lives
4. Protect immigrants trying to work and provide a better life for their children
5. Ensuring access to affordable healthcare that includes comprehensive care and choice for women, mental health parity and protections for those with pre-existing conditions

### **TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES SINCE 2014 AND ACTION ON THEM**

1. Agriculture - I fought to join the House Agriculture Committee because farming is vital to the New York's economy and our way of life. By providing healthy food to our communities, state, and nation, our farmers create thousands of jobs and bring millions of dollars to our region.

2. Creating Jobs and Economic Security - Creating jobs and growing New York's economy have been my top priorities. The government must create a climate that fosters job growth. I believe in common sense solutions, like investing in small businesses and raising minimum wage rate across the country. That's why, I've supported legislation like the Raise the Wage Act and Paycheck Fairness Act that will make it easier for New Yorkers who are living from check to check.

3. Investing in Education - With student loan rates on the rise, this dream of attending college is slipping away for too many students. The out-of-control cost of college has forced the vast majority of New York's students to take out ballooning college loans. Despite congressional Republican efforts to dismantle the Higher Education Act, I've worked hard to reduce college students' crippling debt and make it easier - not harder - for young folks to get the education they need to succeed in this competitive, 21st century economy.

4. Investing in Transportation - We cannot build a 21st century economy without investing in research, innovation, education and infrastructure. Smart investments will increase our competitiveness in a global economy and help create jobs both now and in the future. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I've been in a unique position to support local infrastructure projects in New York that will create jobs, grow our economy, and fix the transportation issues that plague our system. As a member of the committee I helped draft the largest highway and transit bill ever which brought billions of dollars in transportation funds back to New York.

5. Environmental Protections - I've continuously fought to protect our environment, sustain our natural resources, and keep our communities safe for generations to come. Establishing more affordable, reliable and sustainable energy solutions will create new jobs and industry in New York. I've been leading the fight in the House to ensure that the EPA doesn't let GE off the hook for the PCB cleanup efforts in the Hudson and leave New Yorkers to foot the bill. I've worked to ensure that my neighbors in Newburgh have access to clean drinking water and to hold the Department of Defense accountable for polluting their water

source. From my first days in Congress I promised my neighbors in Hopewell Junction dealing with the contamination of their drinking water from a Superfund site that I would get them access to clean water. I pressed the EPA to do the right thing and make this a reality and later this year we will be breaking ground on new wells with clean drinking water for the people of Hopewell Junction - something I am extremely proud of. Similarly, I promised New Yorkers that I would kill the Coast Guard's disastrous proposal to create dozens of long-term anchorages for oil barges in the Hudson River - effectively turning the river into a parking lot for crude oil. I didn't just kill that proposal, I passed legislation into law that would ensure that if the Coast Guard ever tries to do this again they'll need to take it to Congress first.

#### IV. ETHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS

Citizens Union believes that all New Yorkers deserve to be represented by officials who work for the public interest and honor the public trust. With the corruption conviction of recent legislative leaders, we seek to endorse a candidate who will demonstrate that she/he will honor the full commitment of the oath of office, and always represent the public interest above all else.

Please tell us how you have and would continue to conduct the political affairs of this office in an upright manner, and maintain the public trust.

Maintaining the public's trust and upholding the standards of the Attorney General's office will be my top priority if I'm elected. Recently, we've seen an influx of indictments and convictions made against some of our country's most trusted leaders and advisors which shows the commitment of our democracy to ensure that no one is above the law. If I'm elected as New York's next Attorney General, my primary goal will be to fully honor the commitment of the oath of office and take on bad actors who commit crimes and try to outsmart the system. I have the passion to take on the tough fights and the experience to win them, that's why I'm running to be New York's next Attorney General.